

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEGUCIGALPA 002483

SIPDIS

JUSTICE FOR OIA, AFMLS, AND NDDS
TREASURY FOR FINCEN
DEA FOR OILS AND OFFICE OF DIVERSION CONTROL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: HONDURAS MINI DUBLIN REPORT

REF: STATE 209560

1. Status: Honduras still remains as one of Central America's transient countries for drugs, weapons, and other illegal contraband transshipments. The DEA Honduran Vetted Unit has successfully disrupted and dismantled entrenched drug trafficking organizations moving large quantities of cocaine and heroin to the United States. They have also been effective in the collection of drug intelligence information relevant to International Trafficking organizations. Other USG initiatives include strengthening the police and prosecutors through training and support of interdiction operations.

2. With regard to ongoing assistance programs, participants offered the following:

Taiwan: In 2005, Taiwan donated a total of 59 assorted vehicles to the GOH Ministry of Public Security in support of the various National Police Units. The donated equipment is valued at approximately one million dollars. Taiwan also offers law enforcement training to various members of the GOH National Police.

Spain: The Spanish government has provided support to the GOH National Police consisting of technical assistance and training in the amounts of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars along with the donation of computers and equipment valued at six thousand Euros. An amount of nineteen thousand dollars was donated to the National Police Training Academy to assist in the construction of an education facility.

United States: During the period of 2003 thru 2005, the U.S. State Department Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) has provided law enforcement training, technical assistance, and donated equipment to assist in counter narcotics efforts to Honduras in the amount of almost two million dollars.

Countries offering assistance in various law enforcement and judicial training topics include El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Nicaragua, and Colombia.

3. Major recent anti-drug success by DEA and the GOH Vetted Unit include the first bilateral court authorized telephone intercept investigation in Central America. This first-ever operation contributed directly to the arrest of top narcotics dealers and enough evidence to put a major International drug ring out of commission, thereby dismantling major drug trafficking operations which operated in Honduras for several years. Millions of dollars in cash and assets were also recovered as a result of other drug investigations and operations as conducted by DEA, the Vetted Unit, and Frontier Police forces.

4. The GOH counter-narcotics Vetted Unit has been instrumental in the ongoing fight against shipment of drugs as exemplified by the following list of accomplishments to date. The figures represent 23% of drugs seized in Honduras over the past three years.
-Dec. 2002, \$460,000.00 cash seizure from a vessel used for illegal drug shipments,
-July 2003, 22 kilos of cocaine and 1 kilo of heroin seized in Miami, shipped from Honduras,
-July 2003, 432 kilos of cocaine seized in Honduras,
-Sept. 2003, 13 kilos of heroin seized in El Paraiso, Honduras,
-October 2003, 14 kilos of cocaine seized off a shipping vessel,
-June 2004, 1,460 kilos of cocaine seized in Baja Mar, Honduras,
-March 2004, 25 kilos of cocaine seized in Tegucigalpa, Honduras,
-Sept. 2005, 9 kilos of cocaine seized in La Entrada, Honduras.

5. The Honduran National Police, thru various land, sea, and air interdiction operations, have confiscated a total of 8411.83 kilograms of cocaine from 2003 to the present. These figures were supplied by the GOH National

Intelligence Unit known as CEINCO. Along with these effective initiatives, the GOH continues engaged in active joint police and military counter narcotics interdiction operations. In March 2005, the U.S. Coast Guard vessel Gentian conducted a maritime training exercise known as "Round Up". This first time training exercise consisted of several Central American countries such as Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua as participants. Training included maritime anti-narcotics ship boarding and search exercises. Among other exercises, the countries participating conducted joint drug interdiction and communications exercises. The "Round Up" event was a major success and future similar training activities are being coordinated for the near future. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Special Ops BORTAC Team continues to provide technical assistance, training, and limited logistical support to the GOH Frontier Police in border security and drug smuggling check point operations as well.

6. The new proposed draft of the Government of Honduras counter narcotics law has yet to be reviewed or approved by the Congress, due to the current elections which took place in Honduras in November 2005. This law would significantly expand the authority of law enforcement agencies to initiate undercover and other covert operations. It is expected that the Congress will review and pass the proposed law after the elections. These counter narcotics laws and revisions in the new Code of Criminal Procedures will greatly enhance law enforcement and drug prosecution efforts within the country of Honduras.

17. There is currently an anti-corruption effort within the GOH National Police and Public Ministry Special Investigative Units which is applying the use of polygraph testing to directly address issues of internal security issues within these elite units. Members which do not successfully pass these tests will be re-assigned to other non-sensitive and critical entities to ensure confidentially in the investigations of counter narcotics

SIPDIS

and other major crimes involving organized criminal organizations. According to DEA information, there is no rise in synthetic drug usage or production of synthetic drugs in Honduras at present and no new synthetic drug transport routes or methods have been noted. It is generally agreed that cocaine use is rising in Honduras and gangs are controlling the dispersing rings. USAID offers training to all prosecutors of the GOH Public Ministry along with some judges involved in the prosecution of various crimes. Specialized training is also provided to units involved in the prosecution of crimes in the areas of Anti-corruption and Organized Crime.

18. The USG still continues to be the major donor in providing training and technical assistance to the GOH, particularly the Public Ministry and National Police, to include the Frontier Police and other special Investigative Units operating under the Ministry of Public Security. Basic and Advanced Drug training courses, along with Money Laundering training, is being offered to the GOH in an effort to strengthen counter narcotics investigations and prosecutions. Demand reduction efforts by the U.S. include supporting and funding an NGO umbrella organization which serves to support over seventy drug demand reduction programs within the country of Honduras.

19. Recommendations: (1) Expand the limited funding and resources to both the USG military and law enforcement entities involved with the GOH in combined counter narcotics operations and training activities. (2) Provide logistical support to the Honduran counter narcotics units such as air, sea, and land equipment and resources to assist in stemming the flow of illegal drugs, contraband, and other illicit organized criminal activities. (3) Continued support to the Organized Crime Unit of the GOH Public Ministry which has had numerous recent successes in the investigation of drug trafficking.

FORD